
BLM News Release

For Immediate Release

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BLM Royal Gorge Field Office Releases Arkansas River Travel Management Plan Decision

CANON CITY---The Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office released the decision for the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment on May 22, 2008. This decision designates roads and trails and approves associated implementation actions on 240,555 acres of public land in the Arkansas River Valley. This area includes the river corridor between Canon City and Salida and the northern half of Custer County. These designations and implementation actions are a result of analysis and recommendations contained in the Arkansas River Travel Management Environmental Assessment.

“The Field Office would like to deeply thank all the dedicated citizens that participated in this planning effort; we received numerous comments and did our best to accommodate the public’s requests within the limitations of the resources we manage”, Field Manager, Roy Masinton said.

Anyone wishing to appeal these decisions has 30 days to provide the required documentation to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Maps of the proposed routes and accompanying decision rationale are available on the BLM website at the following address:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/travel_mgmt/arkansas_river_travel0.html

The Royal Gorge field office undertook this environmental assessment and recommends the designation of roads and trails to:

- Reduce damage to natural resources and the environment
- Reduce user conflict and impacts caused by differing user interactions
- Improve public land access and increase recreation opportunities
- Manage growing amounts of recreation use
- Manage access between public and private lands
- Manage off-road travel for parking, camping and game retrieval
- Limit the use of mountain bikes to designated routes
- Manage target shooting, safety, noise and exclusive use
- Provide adequate maintenance of high use trail systems
- Respond to requests for additional open areas for holding trials events
- Respond to requests for additional atv and motorcycle routes
- Respond to requests for trail improvements and new trails for mountain biking and hiking

The Decision designates roads and trails into the following four distinct categories:

- 35.1 miles of non-motorized
- 232.2 miles of motorized
- 125.7 miles of administrative access
- 155.7 miles of closed/user created roads.

Please contact John Dow, Royal Gorge Field Office NEPA Specialist at 719-269-8559 for additional information.

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